

Athens, Saturday December 10, 2011

**Greek Transgender Support Association
(Protocol Catalogue no. 7646/2010)**



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Press Release

Subject : “Bill of law for combating certain forms of racism deposited to the Greek Parliament. Gender identity not included.”

The Greek Transgender Support Association (G.T.S.A), through this press release, is stating that despite our intervention on the bill of law for combating certain forms of racism, gender identity is not included as forbidden ground for encouraging, provoking or stimulation of hate speech.

In the bill of law, deposited on December 5, 2011 (http://www.hellenicparliament.gr/Nomothetiko-Ergo/Anazitisi-Nomothetikou-Ergou?law_id=782ac52b-440b-4b86-b08a-f8b8dbc55076), there have been variations from the initial bill subjected for consultation, which constitute improvement, like the replacement of the term “animosity” with the more specific term “hatred”, the description of the offence stated more specifically (especially with the addition of “encouraging” and “stimulation”), “natal orientation” has been replaced with the more correct “sexual orientation” and in the criminality besides posing a risk to public order, threat to life, freedom or physical integrity was also added, and also, article 8, which did not allow all non profit organisations to be civil claimants, has been abolished, as we had pointed out in our initial intervention.

We note, in a perfectly clear way that it is necessary in the following :

- **Article 2, paragraph 1**
- **Article 3, paragraph 1**
- **Article 5,**

to add gender identity as forbidden ground for encouraging, provoking or stimulation of hate speech.

We remind you of the perfectly net and clear recommendation of the commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, Thomas Hammarberg in his report “Human rights and Gender Identity” where Commissioner Hammarberg states that **it is necessary to mention gender identity**, in order to protect transgender people from racial hatred, intolerance and discrimination.

In the same report, commissioner Hammarberg underlines that gender identity, is a perfectly discrete term and should not be confused with sexual orientation, as it often happens, while it is necessary to mention it in order to protect transgendered people.

In the same spirit, the Greek Transgender Support Association (G.T.S.A), will continue with all its powers to intervene with all the political parties of the Parliament, for the amendment of the bill of law and the addition of gender identity in the articles mentioned above.

The Board of Directors

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